

1 STATE OF MINNESOTA

2 OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

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5 Designation of the Community Action Partnership
6 of Suburban Hennepin as the Community Action
7 Agency for the City of Minneapolis
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10
11 PUBLIC HEARING

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14 The above-entitled matter came on for Public
15 Hearing before Chief Administrative Law Judge Tammy
16 Pust, taken before Michelle R. Clifton, a Notary
17 Public in and for the County of Hennepin, State of
18 Minnesota, on Wednesday, the 27th day of January,
19 2016, commencing at approximately 6:05 p.m., at
20 Minneapolis Central Library, 300 Nicollet Mall,
21 Pohlada Hall, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 55401.
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24
25

A P P E A R A N C E S

HEARING OFFICER:

TAMMY PUST
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS
600 North Robert Street
Post Office Box 64620
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55164-0620

APPEARING FOR AND ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS:

GENE RANIERI
DIRECTOR
CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS
INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS
350 South Fifth Street, Room 301M
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APPEARING FOR AND ON BEHALF OF COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP
OF SUBURBAN HENNEPIN:

SCOTT ZEMKE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP OF SUBURBAN HENNEPIN
8800 Highway 7, Ste. 401
St. Louis Park, Minnesota 55426

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1 THE JUDGE: Good evening, everyone.
2 Great cue. And I only just held up my thumb and you all
3 quieted. My name is Tammy Pust, and I'm the chief judge
4 at the Office of Administrative Hearings. I am here
5 tonight to conduct a public hearing in the matter
6 involving the City of Minneapolis' designation of a new
7 Community Action Agency.

8 I don't know if you've picked up this piece of
9 paper when you came in. But if you didn't, make sure you
10 get it before you leave, because it details some of the
11 information I'm going to give you now. And when you get
12 home, you might want to remember some of it. So if you
13 don't have it, make sure you pick it up at the front desk.

14 First I want you to know that the Office of
15 Administrative Hearings is not part of the City of
16 Minneapolis, we're not part of the Department of Human
17 Resources. We're an independent state agency that goes
18 out and does public hearings like this when there is a
19 need to make sure that a community has been asked for
20 their opinions on important topics. So that's what we're
21 here for today.

22 There is two basic purposes of this hearing. One
23 is to allow you, the public, to present your views and ask
24 any questions you might have of representatives of the
25 City of Minneapolis or representatives of Community Action

1 Partnership of Suburban Hennepin.

2 Now, since I've already stumbled over that name
3 one time, we're going to stop, and I'm going to tell you
4 what we're going to do about that. That's a mouthful,
5 Community Action Partnership of Suburban Hennepin, right?
6 I'm going to call that Suburban Hennepin. So when I ever
7 refer to Suburban Hennepin, please know I'm not talking
8 about a geographic area, I'm not talking about someplace
9 other than -- that you're familiar with. I'm talking
10 about that CAP agency. I'm just going to call it Suburban
11 Hennepin.

12 All right. So that's one of the reasons that
13 we're here. And the other reason we're here is to make an
14 official record of what the community thinks. Because I'm
15 going to use that record, and I'm going to review your
16 comments and your questions and the information that both
17 Suburban Hennepin and the City of Minneapolis give
18 tonight, and whatever comments you might make in the next
19 20 days, and I'll get back to that in a second, and then I
20 will be writing a report that will be making a
21 recommendation as to whether or not the statute and the
22 applicable rules have been followed and what it is you
23 thought about this potential designation.

24 All right. We have an agenda for tonight, and
25 here is basically the order of how tonight's hearing will

1 go. We'll start with some submission of some exhibits by
2 the City, and they will just sort of talk to us a little
3 bit about that; then we'll have a presentation from the
4 City, briefly, about why it is they've made a preliminary
5 designation of Suburban Hennepin; then we'll hear from
6 Suburban Hennepin, and they will tell us a little bit
7 about what their plans are; and then we will turn it over
8 to you. And we have microphones in the room, and you will
9 be able to stand up and ask your questions or make your
10 statements or whatever you want to tell me.

11 Now, when you do that, there is some things that
12 you're going to need to keep in mind. First, I need to
13 make sure that if you're going to step up to a microphone
14 -- and, again, all of you are welcome to do that. But if
15 you're going to do that, I need to make sure that you sign
16 in on the registry that's outside on the table, because
17 we're keeping that as an official record of who spoke.
18 So, again, if you didn't think you were going to speak,
19 but you decide you want to later, just make sure you go
20 out and sign that register. That is how I will know to
21 call you up to the microphone. So that's important.

22 When it's your turn to step up to the microphone,
23 I need you to start by telling me your name and spelling
24 your name. We have some interpreters here for both the
25 Spanish language, a Somali interpreter is on their way,

1 and a Hmong interpreter, I believe, is also in the room.
2 So if you need interpreter services in those languages, we
3 can accommodate. If you need interpreter services in any
4 other language, I'll just ask you to identify that for us
5 and we'll figure out what we need to do from there.

6 This hearing is being recorded on tape. It is
7 also being court reported. The court reporter is sitting
8 at this table right back here, by the post, and it's her
9 job to take down everything that I'm saying, everything
10 that you say, everything the City or Suburban Hennepin
11 say. And as a result of that, we need to follow some
12 rules. One, we need to speak one at a time. If I'm
13 talking and you're talking, the court reporter can't get
14 that down.

15 If you're going to be speaking at a microphone,
16 it's necessary that you use words, because the court
17 reporter can't take down uh-huh, uh-uh, or shrugs of the
18 shoulders. We don't know what that means in a court
19 reporter world, so we need to use our words. It's also
20 important that if you refer to anybody else or any
21 technical word that you think I might not know or a person
22 that you're talking about, I need you to stop and restate
23 the name and spell it for me so that we get it right in
24 the record. Because, of course, we want to be respectful
25 when we -- sometimes what people said -- and one of the

1 ways we can do that is, at the very least, by getting
2 their name right. So I'd ask you to stop and spell those
3 for me.

4 All right. If you have brought a written copy of
5 what you want to say, that's great. You can still get up
6 and speak. But I'd ask you to leave me the written copy.
7 If you didn't bring a written copy, that's not a problem.
8 That's not expected.

9 All right. Now, let me talk to you a little bit
10 about commenting afterwards. Some of you in the room are
11 going to listen to the proceedings tonight and you're
12 going to decide you don't really have anything to say
13 tonight. But you might decide when you get home or you
14 might decide next week that you really have some thoughts
15 that you want the City of Minneapolis or Suburban Hennepin
16 to know. You'll have an opportunity to submit your
17 comments for the next 20 days. So up until 4:30 p.m., on
18 February 16th, you can submit comments. There is a couple
19 ways you can do that. One, you can submit them
20 electronically. You can do that.

21 Again, if you refer to the sheet that I talked
22 about at the very beginning, there is a URL. There's a
23 website location for you to go and put your comments in.
24 And I'd ask you to do that. And I'd also ask you, even if
25 you're not interested in making comments, go ahead and go

1 to that website and read the comments of the other
2 community members that put them in. Because it's, again,
3 part of the discussion, and we want you all to be active,
4 engaged citizens and involved in that conversation.

5 If you don't have access to or choose not to put
6 your comments in through the electronic system, you can
7 send written comments. And I've given an address on the
8 sheet that you can send your written comments to. Be
9 aware, though, that the timing is that I need to receive
10 your comments by 4:30 p.m. on February 16th. So it's not
11 good enough if you mail them at 4:30 p.m. on
12 February 16th. I need to receive them. And, again,
13 that's spelled out for you on this document, so I hope
14 that's clear.

15 All right. After all of that, again, I will write
16 up a report. The report goes to the City. Perhaps the
17 City can address in their comments what -- how the public
18 gets access to that report, if so, and we'll take it from
19 there.

20 So are there any process questions right now?
21 Anything you don't understand about what I've said?
22 Because if not, I am going to start by having the City
23 talk to us a little bit about what this is about. Okay.
24 Great.

25 Representing the City we have Gene Ranieri, who is

1 going to give us about a 10- or 15-minute presentation
2 about what decisionmaking the City of Minneapolis has gone
3 through, what they've considered, and how it is they've
4 come up with this preliminary designation. Mr. Ranieri.

5 MR. RANIERI: Thank you very much, Your
6 Honor. And I do have a PowerPoint presentation, and we'll
7 have copies afterward. What I'm going to try and do is
8 talk about very quickly the role of Community Action
9 Agencies, what they are, the State role in community
10 action, the City's role, and then why we are here tonight
11 for the designation process, and then the public hearing,
12 then another process called recognition, and then why the
13 City of Minneapolis -- our process and our proposed
14 designee.

15 Community Action Agencies are nonprofit
16 organizations, just like HESPA and others. There is only
17 25 in Minneapolis, and there is also -- in the Indian
18 Nations, there are 6. The purpose of these agencies,
19 which were established way back by federal law in 1964, is
20 to assist low-income persons in households to acquire
21 skills and knowledge and to achieve self-sufficiency.
22 These organizations can receive federal funds, and also,
23 in our state, state funds for their operation. So
24 community development with these funds can -- called
25 Community Social Service Block Grants are administered by

1 the Minnesota Department of Human Services. So you see
2 there is a hierarchy here, Fed to State Community Action
3 Agencies.

4 Here in our state, money is distributed by a
5 formula which includes the rate of poverty, people in
6 poverty, and some other factors. In 2015, the Community
7 Services Block Grant for Minnesota was \$6.6 million, and
8 the amount from the Minnesota Act, our own grant program,
9 was \$3.7 million. Minneapolis' amount is scheduled be
10 about \$1.37 million per year.

11 Some of the things that these agencies do: They
12 work with low-income folks, they are advocates, they do
13 lots of planning, programming, they try to get other
14 agencies to work with them. So partnerships are quite
15 important. And I think there are many folks in the room
16 tonight who are part of or partners with the Community
17 Action Agency of Suburban Hennepin. These agencies also
18 operate programs, and their attempt is to try to leverage
19 funds to promote more funds for their organization.

20 So in some cases, for every dollar that an agency
21 receives from the Community Action funds, they can
22 sometimes grow three, four, five, six times. For example,
23 Suburban Hennepin is around three and a half dollars per
24 every dollar they receive from the State and Feds.
25 Others, depending on what they do, may be a little higher

1 or lower.

2 Now, what is the State role? Well, as I mentioned
3 earlier, the federal program is administered by the state
4 agency. And in our state, it's the Minnesota Department
5 of Human Services. That's the acronym of DHS. The state
6 agency contracts with the Community Action Agencies. The
7 State submits annual reports to the U.S. Department of
8 Health and Human Services.

9 One of the things that's important is that the
10 Community Action Agencies are required to complete
11 planning processes, do all sorts of accounting and
12 reporting on their activities each year. So they have a
13 really significant amount of accountability to state and
14 federal agencies.

15 Now, what's the role of cities in the city of
16 Minneapolis and this Community Action? Prior to 1994, the
17 City had a department that was the Community Action
18 Agency. In 1994, there was a hearing similar to this that
19 designated a nonprofit Community Action Agency, Community
20 Action of Minneapolis, to operate as a city's Community
21 Action Agency.

22 In 2014, as many of us read in the newspapers, DHS
23 terminated the contract. And then the appeal that
24 Community Action Minneapolis filed was withdrawn in June
25 of 2015. Right around that time, we -- the City role was

1 to designate and seek a Community Action Agency for our
2 city and appoint a -- public officials board members.

3 So why are we here today? The process of
4 designation is the process -- it's written in the
5 guidelines -- to select an entity as the service area's
6 exclusive Community Action Agency by the governing body
7 after public hearing has been held. The governing body
8 may choose -- and there is an order of priority -- a
9 Community Action Agency that's close to the proximity of
10 the city, an existing CAA that's closest to the service
11 area, or an entity that's a nonprofit but not a Community
12 Action Agency. So there are three priorities that had to
13 be considered in choosing an agency to represent the City
14 of Minneapolis.

15 And what process we are in now is we went through
16 a process, made a recommendation, and filed a notice to
17 designate Suburban Hennepin as the community service --
18 Community Action Agency for the City of Minneapolis.

19 Here is some information about the public hearing
20 we're having tonight. We are required to have a public
21 hearing. We are making testimony about why we think
22 Suburban Hennepin -- also we have to have Suburban
23 Hennepin do the same thing. And we can go quickly through
24 this.

25 And recognition is the next process. You know,

1 government processes are pretty continual. After we
2 designate, it's up to the State to go through all the
3 files and all the records we sent to them and to recognize
4 Suburban Hennepin. If that happens, then they will be the
5 official agency for the City of Minneapolis. So you have
6 two or three different processes we need to go through to
7 have this all completed.

8 What is our process? Well, the staff in the City
9 Attorney's Office, in my office, which is the
10 Intergovernmental Relations, or IGR, was assigned to
11 develop a plan to try and -- go to designate a Community
12 Action Agency. We met with DHS staff. We met frequently
13 to develop a path to how to do this. We came up with a
14 process where we came out with a request for
15 qualifications. We asked agencies, we published a --
16 there is a four-page document asking for experience,
17 ideas, and if they've worked with people with limited
18 amount of income, if they've worked in cities, what kind
19 of housing programs or what kinds of programs they have
20 done, if they have any experience in working as a
21 Community Action Agency. We sent out a request for
22 qualifications, and we included asking for information
23 like financial information, audits, budgets,
24 organizational standards, planning and evaluation, all
25 which have to be done as a Community Action Agency. We

1 included the priority we just went through. The dates are
2 there. We had through the summer. And we finally had a
3 team look at these applications in September.

4 We had four agencies submit applications. Two
5 were Community Action Agencies, and two were nonprofits.
6 We interviewed all four. We then recommended Community
7 Action of Suburban Hennepin County as the recommended
8 preliminary designee. And some of the reasons and some of
9 the facts we found were, number one, they are already
10 serving residents in the city of Minneapolis,
11 approximately about 12,000 households are on their list,
12 of who they're working with, particularly in several
13 programs. They have been providing services in our city
14 since the fall of 2014. They have offices located in
15 Sabathani, the Urban League, and Lutheran Social Services,
16 here in Minneapolis. They have the ability to work with
17 multicultural, multilingual, and racially diverse
18 communities. Their staff is diverse. They have been able
19 to leverage, as we talked about earlier, about \$3.44. For
20 every dollar they have, they get \$3.44 more. They have
21 experience in working with the City. They have city
22 departments and agencies and nonprofits.

23 The -- Suburban Hennepin has worked very closely
24 with our Regulatory Services department to help work on
25 rental housing issues and issues dealing with cleaning up

1 some alleys and neighborhoods. But they've been very
2 closely working with us also on a couple other issues,
3 particularly with some of our police department issues.

4 They have experience in working with City -- they
5 are active in federal and state housing programs, which is
6 an issue in our city. Their audits are without
7 conditions, and they are experienced with residential
8 mobility. We're seeing an awful lot of movement between
9 the city and the suburbs. And they've been able to --
10 they have that experience. They work with folks who move
11 from either the suburbs to the city, city to the suburbs,
12 and we're seeing a lot of that occur.

13 But we -- when this is over, when we're done, and
14 if they are recognized, we're going to sit down with them
15 and try to come up with some things they need to think
16 through. One is we want them to amend their bylaws, to
17 restructure their board. And they will do this to have
18 members from Minneapolis, both public members, members
19 from the businesses and community, and also residents.
20 You're going to need to conduct and complete a needs
21 assessment to identify what needs to be done to help folks
22 get out of poverty. They are going to need to develop an
23 action plan. And they are going to ensure, at least for
24 the first two years, that the allocation for Minneapolis
25 is used in the city, that \$1.3 million we talked about a

1 few minutes ago. They are going to need to work with us
2 to develop working relationships with the city, our
3 neighborhoods, and also the county. So, Your Honor,
4 that's my conclusion. I'd answer any questions. And
5 thank you.

6 THE JUDGE: Thank you. Are there any
7 other documents that you want to present to me?

8 MR. RANIERI: Yes, we'd like to present
9 this document (indicating). Also, all the notices, the
10 RFQ, and the submission from Suburban Hennepin.

11 THE JUDGE: Okay. And for the audience
12 members, again, if you go to the website where the --
13 thank you -- that is noted on the handout, you will see
14 posted there all of the documents that he just referred
15 to, the Request For Qualifications, the notification
16 letters both pertaining to this public hearing and to
17 earlier steps in the process where they were asking for
18 applications, and you'll also see the actual submission
19 from Suburban Hennepin, what it is they gave to the City
20 saying what it is they thought they would be able to do.
21 So those are available to you electronically today.

22 Also, the City of Minneapolis -- I think somebody
23 is going to tell us how it is -- if you've got a question,
24 how you get information from the City of Minneapolis.

25 MR. RANIERI: Your Honor, I think the

1 best thing to do is an e-mail to my office. And
2 unfortunately -- I can give you my e-mail.

3 THE JUDGE: Go ahead and give me your
4 e-mail.

5 MR. RANIERI: It's
6 Gene.Ranieri@Minneapolismn.gov.

7 THE JUDGE: All right. I'm going to
8 repeat that now for anybody who is writing that down.
9 Again, his name is Gene Ranieri. And he spells it
10 Gene.Ranieri@Minneapolismn.gov.

11 Okay. Thank you. Now I believe we have
12 someone who is going to present on behalf of Suburban
13 Hennepin. Can you please introduce yourself for the
14 crowd?

15 MR. ZEMKE: Thank you, Your Honor. Yes.
16 I'm Scott Zemke. I'm the executive director of Community
17 Action Partnership of Suburban Hennepin.

18 THE JUDGE: And we're going to now model
19 for everyone what we need them to do. How do I spell your
20 last name?

21 MR. ZEMKE: It's Z-E-M-K-E.

22 THE JUDGE: Perfect. And you're the
23 executive director of Suburban Hennepin.

24 MR. ZEMKE: That is correct. I will do
25 my best to refer to us as Suburban Hennepin. We generally

1 refer to ourselves as CAPSH.

2 THE JUDGE: CAPSH.

3 MR. ZEMKE: CAPSH.

4 THE JUDGE: I did see the acronym, and I
5 thought, I just don't know what to do with that.

6 MR. ZEMKE: We may try to rectify that
7 with a name change in the future.

8 THE JUDGE: You may proceed.

9 MR. ZEMKE: Thank you, Your Honor.

10 It will come up. It just takes a
11 second. We did have a dry run.

12 THE JUDGE: There we go.

13 MR. ZEMKE: Thank you, everybody. Thank
14 you to the City of Minneapolis for allowing us to present
15 here tonight, and thank you to our partners, friends, and
16 board members who have come down. And most importantly,
17 thank you for -- to the residents of Minneapolis and the
18 stakeholders who have come here tonight to provide public
19 comment on the Community Action designation. We
20 appreciate hearing your voice tonight.

21 I'm going to move quickly through this
22 presentation. We have -- we do have hardcopies of this
23 that will be available at the end of the presentation as
24 well. It is not -- it's for the public record, so it is
25 quite long, but I do want to try and get through this so

1 there is ample time for public comment.

2 So just a little bit of history for Suburban
3 Hennepin. We were incorporated in 1986. We are the
4 state- and federally-certified Community Action Agency
5 serving the other 44 cities in Hennepin County, with the
6 exception of Minneapolis, with Community Action
7 activities. We do have the Energy Assistance Program and
8 several other programs operating in the city, but we do
9 not have the designation at this point.

10 Our current mission is to improve the quality of
11 life in Suburban Hennepin County by creating and
12 supporting links between individuals and communities
13 through service, education, and collaboration. And what
14 we're proposing is to serve all of Hennepin County,
15 obviously including the City of Minneapolis, all 45
16 communities. And we've simply, at this point, for our
17 proposed mission, have removed the word "Suburban" from
18 the mission statement.

19 Here is just a little bit of the work that we've
20 done, that we did in 2015. Again, I'm not going to -- I
21 will allow you -- or just let you look at this in more
22 detail on the hard copy so we can move through it. This
23 gives you a little bit of a sense of the number of clients
24 that we serve in the various programs that we have.

25 We have the Energy Assistance Program and those

1 related programs, we do SNAP outreach at a number of
2 locations throughout Hennepin County, including many
3 locations in the city of Minneapolis, we offer legal
4 services clinics, again throughout Hennepin County, at a
5 number of locations in the city of Minneapolis. We are a
6 VITA-free tax assistance deliverer. We have -- we -- at
7 this point there is no need to do VITA tax assistance at
8 the city of Minneapolis. It is well covered. But we do
9 it throughout suburban Hennepin County. We do financial
10 literacy workshops, and those are tied in with our asset
11 develop program FAME. We do MNsure application assistance
12 to help clients access affordable health care. And we
13 recently added the supportive services for veterans
14 families to our homeless programs.

15 We are a HUD-approved health and counseling
16 agency; a full cycle group health and counseling agency.
17 We do foreclosure prevention work, we do first-time home
18 buyer counseling and education, we do reverse mortgage
19 counseling, home rehab and maintenance counseling, and,
20 again, homeless family support. We work very closely with
21 the Hennepin County on our homeless programs.

22 These are the client demographics from 2015. As
23 you can see, we focus the vast majority of our resources
24 on -- we focus on folks who have incomes that are below
25 100 percent of poverty. There are age and racial

1 demographics here.

2 Community Action Partnership of Suburban Hennepin,
3 or Suburban Hennepin, is a Community Action Agency, so we
4 already have the tripartite board. It is made up of three
5 sectors: The public sector, the private sector, and the
6 community sector. Currently our public sector members
7 include three Hennepin County Commissioners and three
8 locally-elected public officials that are also seated by
9 Hennepin County from geographically diverse areas of
10 suburban Hennepin County. That is how it currently
11 stands.

12 We propose a restructure of our board of
13 directors. We increased the size of the board from 18 to
14 21; each, the public, private, and community sectors, will
15 have seven members; and one third of our board will be
16 comprised of members representing the City of Minneapolis.

17 What we've proposed for the public sector is that
18 Hennepin County will retain its three county commissioners
19 as board members, the City of Minneapolis or their
20 designees will have two seats on our board, and Hennepin
21 County, rather than three elected officials from
22 geographically diverse areas of suburban Hennepin County
23 will go down to two. Public sectors members are approved
24 by the City of Minneapolis and the Hennepin County Board
25 of Commissioners, as proposed.

1 Our private sector members come out of business
2 industry, labor, welfare, education, and other major
3 groups of interest in the community. They are nominated
4 by our Board Nominating Committee. They are sent to the
5 board, and then sent to the board for approval. We have
6 an application process for our private sector members.
7 The application is on our website, which is www.capsh.org.
8 And you can also request an application by phone if you
9 are interested.

10 Our community sector member, one-third of it is
11 made up of our board to represent low-income and
12 underserved persons or people, residents of our community.
13 You can also apply for those positions by going to our
14 website or compacting CAPSH for an application. Those
15 members are seated by applying and then interviewed with
16 our Community Sector Nominating Committee, which is made
17 up of community sector members, and they are then sent to
18 the board for approval and acceptance to the board.

19 This is just -- our budget for 2016 is
20 approximately \$4.5 million. These are the programs that
21 we currently operate in suburban Hennepin County, what we
22 currently operate in the city of Minneapolis, and what we
23 have also -- and also what we are considering for proposed
24 program expansion. Program expansion will be dependent on
25 how the Community Needs Assessment that Mr. Ranieri spoke

1 of, the required needs assessment. We are talking about
2 adding these programs and expanding these programs. But
3 what we don't want to do is add programs that already
4 exist to our list of programs. If there are already
5 organizations in the city of Minneapolis that are doing
6 those programs, we don't want to come in and duplicate it.
7 So that will come out of the Community Needs Assessment
8 process.

9 And, again, I'm going to move quickly through
10 this. I went through the majority of programs that we're
11 operating. One thing I will point out is we do have a
12 vehicle program in development right now.

13 So we are currently working on a transition plan.
14 We, so far, have talked about putting together a
15 transition team that will be made up of people selected by
16 our board of directors and also Minneapolis
17 representatives. We have prepared our articles of
18 incorporation and bylaws to be amended. And we're looking
19 at revising the structure of the CAPSH board of directors
20 through our bylaws process.

21 If we are fortunate enough to get the designation
22 from the City of Minneapolis, we will be looking at doing
23 a Community Needs Assessment. We'll be looking to you,
24 people who have come here to provide public comment, to
25 engage with us and do that and do the Community Needs

1 Assessment. We want to host listening sessions throughout
2 the city of Minneapolis. We want to engage residents, and
3 we want to elicit your comments and recommendations.

4 Nobody knows better than the people who live in the city
5 of Minneapolis what the needs of the community are.

6 We want to make sure that our technology -- that
7 we have the technology in place to expand and meet the
8 needs of the community and increase our presence in the
9 city of Minneapolis. As Mr. Ranieri pointed out, we do
10 have three physical spaces in the city of Minneapolis that
11 we have staff at five days a week. And then we also have
12 several locations, that I'll get to later, throughout
13 Minneapolis and the rest of Hennepin County where we have
14 staff on a regular basis but not all week long. Then,
15 also, we will be conducting a lot of outreach.

16 So some of things that we have done in the past
17 and what we would, obviously, increase would -- as far as
18 outreach to Minneapolis residents, mailing to our current
19 Minneapolis clients to let them know about the new
20 offerings that we might have and how they want to engage
21 with us, talking to our partners and other service
22 providers in the city of Minneapolis and to help raise
23 awareness about CAPSH taking on the designation and the
24 programs and the services that we're offering. We would
25 want to make sure we're targeting locations using census

1 data to make sure we're targeting the lowest income
2 neighbors, we want to make sure we're engaging the
3 community in various languages. We know that there is a
4 lot of need for a lot of English and non-English speaking
5 folks that we need to engage, and we have a great capacity
6 in our staff for a number of different languages, and we'd
7 certainly be increasing that. We want to engage local
8 government officials, the City Council, the
9 representatives and senators that represent the city of
10 Minneapolis. We want to partner with neighborhood
11 associations.

12 Some of the outreach that we've done in
13 Minneapolis, for other programs, has included radio,
14 newspaper, digital advertising, and social media
15 advertising as well. And then others, as identified by
16 the community and the Community Needs Assessment.

17 So we've -- as a Community Action Agency, we are
18 required to conduct Community Needs Assessments on a
19 triannual basis, every three years. So we're very
20 familiar with the process and very comfortable with it.
21 If we're fortunate enough to do the designation, we'll
22 immediately start the process of doing a Community Needs
23 Assessment specifically for the City of Minneapolis.

24 Engaging -- we have access to tools through the
25 National Community Action Partnership, mapping tools that

1 can show us the different demographics throughout the city
2 of Minneapolis. We would engage our primary and secondary
3 customers, our clients, our local social service
4 providers, neighborhood associations, our public
5 officials, our board members, our transition team, and
6 engage the community through a number of means. This is
7 how we -- this is how we evaluate our progress through
8 what's call Results Oriented Management and
9 Accountability. And we track our clients through a number
10 of data systems; primarily, CAP60.

11 So why Community Action Partnership of Suburban
12 Hennepin for this designation? As Mr. Ranieri mentioned,
13 CAPSH already serves nearly 12,000 households in the city
14 of Minneapolis. And the folks that we work with don't
15 always stay in the city of Minneapolis, and they don't
16 always stay in suburban Hennepin County. Minneapolis
17 residents are Hennepin County residents. And what we see
18 is when folks move in and out of the city and in and out
19 of the suburbs, as they tend to do, if they move out of
20 the suburbs, they tend to move into Minneapolis. And if
21 they move out of Minneapolis, they tend to move into the
22 Hennepin County suburbs, is this what this graph is
23 showing, and this graph as well (indicating).

24 So, again, why CAPSH? Because we don't compete
25 with other organizations, we partner. CAPSH has a long

1 history, especially for the last 15 years, of not
2 duplicating services. We know that there are a number of
3 great organizations in the city of Minneapolis that are
4 doing work and serving the same population that we are.
5 These are some of the organizations that we either have a
6 presence at or -- and/or are collaborating with on
7 projects that can help our low-income clients. We also
8 have a number of relationships that we're starting to
9 build as well.

10 So, again, we serve clients throughout Hennepin
11 County. We have a number of locations that we serve folks
12 at, not only in the suburbs, but also throughout
13 Minneapolis. We want to continue to build on the work
14 that we have already done, we want to build our
15 relationships with other organizations, and really, really
16 want to use our history of helping other organizations by
17 -- we have -- again, we have a long history of working
18 with other nonprofits in the -- that are doing similar
19 work.

20 We have legal services that help other nonprofits
21 incorporate and get established; we act as a fiscal agent
22 for other organizations that are trying to develop
23 programming for the same clients that we're serving. So
24 we want to really make sure that as we work in Minneapolis
25 that we are coming in not to compete with other

1 organizations that are doing great work, but to come in
2 and collaborate with them, perhaps support them, and
3 perhaps bring our services to their clients.

4 Again, we'll stand for questions. Thank you. My
5 contact information is there. Feel free to contact me at
6 any time. Again, on behalf of CAPSH, I want to thank you
7 all for coming and providing your input on this process.
8 We will absolutely need it going forward.

9 THE JUDGE: Thank you, Mr. Zemke. All
10 right. Were we going to hear anything on behalf of any
11 other organization? I'm looking over here too
12 (indicating). Nope. Great. Thank you.

13 Then we're going to come back to you, which was
14 the purpose of convening in the first place. We wanted to
15 make sure that you have this information so that everybody
16 is starting from a similar starting point in terms of what
17 the facts are to do. So now you know that.

18 And here is what I have in my hand. I have
19 sign-in sheets indicating that numbers up to 18 have been
20 given out in the crowd. So what I'm going to do is I'm
21 going to ask -- I'm going to call you by number, because
22 it's a little dark up here and I can't really read the
23 names very well. So I'll call you by number, if you have
24 your number. I'm going to ask you to come up to the
25 microphone and tell us whatever you want to tell us, ask

1 us whatever questions you want to ask us.

2 So number one is crossed out. That looks like a
3 mistake. So we're starting with number two, which might
4 be J.D. Haas. Am I correct on the name?

5 J.D. HAAS: Yes. Yes, Your Honor. Good
6 evening.

7 THE JUDGE: Go ahead and spell your name
8 for everyone, please.

9 J.D. HAAS: Yes. My name is J.D. Haas.
10 J-, as in jaguar, D-, as in dog, H-, as in hat, A-, as in
11 apple, A-, as in apple, S-, as in Sam. My address is 1205
12 Thomas Avenue North, in Minneapolis.

13 THE JUDGE: Thank you.

14 J.D. HAAS: I support Suburban
15 Hennepin's application. I am an attorney. I volunteer
16 for Suburban Hennepin, and I want to briefly describe what
17 I do for Suburban Hennepin and what Suburban Hennepin does
18 for me.

19 What I do for Suburban Hennepin is to provide
20 legal services to underrepresented populations, primarily
21 new immigrants in the United States, and I also assist
22 underrepresented groups primarily through the legal clinic
23 at the Urban League, in areas such as housing and criminal
24 expungement.

25 What Suburban Hennepin does for me is gives me a

1 platform for which I can provide legal services at no cost
2 for individuals that might be underrepresented in the
3 community, such as recent immigrants or people at Urban
4 League who have issues with housing or who have issues
5 with criminal expungement. And because they provide this
6 platform for me and allow me to volunteer my time, that is
7 why I am supportive of this of their application. Thank
8 you.

9 THE JUDGE: Thank you.

10 We're going to move to number three,
11 which I believe is Ruby Streety. Is Ms. Streety still
12 here? There we go.

13 RUBY STREETY: Hi, my name is Ruby
14 Streety.

15 THE JUDGE: Can you spell your last name
16 for me?

17 RUBY STREETY: S-T-R-E-E-T-Y.

18 THE JUDGE: Perfect. Thank you. Go
19 ahead.

20 RUBY STREETY: First name is Ruby,
21 R-U-B-Y, and I support Community Action Partnership. I am
22 one of their success stories. I was a homeless widow
23 since 2006. I found myself homeless, pillar to post. I
24 wound up in the hospital -- I have diabetes -- with
25 several amputations. I'm disabled, and I just couldn't

1 get on my feet as far as finding secure housing. And
2 Community Action Program, I called on them from Hennepin
3 County Hospital, when I was in the hospital for three
4 days. From there, to Salvation Harbor Lights. After I
5 came out of the hospital, I had nowhere to go, so I went
6 to Salvation Army and stayed there under pressure. They
7 told me if I didn't find a place to stay that I would have
8 to pay them \$37 a day after 30 days.

9 Well, I contacted Community Action Program
10 Partnership, and they assisted me in find -- in finding
11 housing within two and a half to three weeks, and they got
12 me an apartment in Hopkins, Minnesota; Hopkins Park Plaza
13 Apartment. And I remember the day that I stuck the key in
14 the door and thought I was in heaven. I was so happy,
15 extremely grateful to God. The apartment was beautiful.
16 Already furnished. That took a lot of pressure off. I
17 already had the bed, the sofa, the refrigerator, stove,
18 microwave, carpeting, air conditioning, cable, the color
19 TV. Of course I wanted to cry. I was so grateful. So
20 happy.

21 I met Patricia Longs. She helped me find the
22 apartment. And she was standing there, and she wanted me
23 to take me to the grocery store to get some food. I told
24 her, I don't need no food; I have keys. I have an
25 apartment. I don't need any food. Anyway, I think she

1 got me out of there in maybe about 15, 20 minutes to go to
2 the store to get some food.

3 And from that point, I stayed there from
4 October of 2013 to May of 2015. She told me the forms --
5 the different programs that they had available where I
6 could apply for public housing, because that rent was
7 almost \$1,000 a month. And I applied for an apartment in
8 St. Louis Park, Hamilton House, and they called me. So
9 then I was able to go into public housing and pay
10 30 percent of my income on my rent. And I am very
11 appreciative. Because not only did the program help me,
12 but I had a son that I was staying with for a while, and
13 he lost his apartment. And I found myself pillar to post
14 again. And the program was also able to help him find
15 public housing, and now he's very happy and secure.

16 And I just appreciate -- and God bless Community
17 Action. I don't know what I would have done. I would be
18 still homeless without the program. And I want to support
19 the program, and I would like to volunteer to help the
20 homeless people. If it wasn't for the program, I would be
21 under a bridge. I don't know where I would be. Because
22 it's hard to find housing. Very hard.

23 And then they gave me the support of helping me to
24 find food shelters, the food programs that will give you
25 food, and the different organizations that will assist you

1 with your car fares, your medical needs, your legal needs,
2 and everything. And I am here to support them in any way
3 I can, because there is other people coming behind me that
4 needs that same help. And since they helped me now, my
5 life is secure. I have a beautiful public housing
6 apartment. It's like a townhouse. I have a little
7 balcony. I can't believe it. But it's true. But I am so
8 grateful, so grateful for Community Action Program. And
9 it has made me a better person, a more sharing and caring
10 person, where I feel now that I want to help others. And
11 God has truly blessed me and this organization. Thank
12 you.

13 THE JUDGE: Thank you, Ms. Streety.

14 All right. Now we're going to hear from number
15 four, who I believe is Shirlie Straub.

16 SHIRLIE STRAUB: My name is Shirlie
17 Straub. S-H-I-R-L-I-E, S-T-R-A-U-B.

18 THE JUDGE: Thank you.

19 SHIRLIE STRAUB: And public housing -- I
20 mean, Community Action has helped me with my light bills,
21 they also helped me with finding a place to stay, with Pat
22 Longs, who I been knowing for years, and other things that
23 I need that they will help me with. And when I call them,
24 I don't have no problem. They solve the problem. They
25 was there. They assist me in anything that I need. Thank

1 you.

2 THE JUDGE: Thank you. Next on our list
3 is number five. And I -- Rudy -- I'm sorry. I have no
4 idea.

5 (The following comments by Rudy Alvarez
6 were given through an interpreter.)

7 RUDY ALVAREZ: Good afternoon to
8 everybody. My name is Rudolph Alvarez. Everybody calls
9 me Rudy. It's much easier. Last name is Alvarez,
10 A-L-V-A-R-E-Z.

11 THE JUDGE: Thank you.

12 RUDY ALVAREZ: I am here representing
13 the Spanish community. I have a lot to say. And if I
14 stood her all night, it would probably take me all night.
15 I want to bring out the main points of (inaudible). It's
16 education, health, places to go exercising for health. I
17 say this being a diabetic myself. I know because
18 everything I've learned here. Everything I do, it's
19 helped me, and now I help others. Like I've said, these
20 are things that I feel the Hispanic community needs. And
21 I don't want to take up all of your night, and I
22 appreciate everything. Thank you.

23 THE JUDGE: Thank you.

24 All right. Next we have number six --

25 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Pass.

1 THE JUDGE: Pass?

2 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Pass.

3 THE JUDGE: Okay. Thank you. Number
4 seven, Mel and Sharon. Am I reading that right?

5 MEL THELEN: Yeah.

6 THE JUDGE: All right, Mel. Come on
7 down.

8 MEL THELEN: Hi. Hello?

9 THE JUDGE: Hello. Can I get your first
10 and last name, Mel?

11 MEL THELEN: It's Mel. And my wife's
12 name is Sharon. Mel and Sharon Thelen.

13 THE JUDGE: Thelen?

14 MEL THELEN: Thelen, yeah.

15 THE JUDGE: And how do I spell the last
16 name?

17 MEL THELEN: T-H-E-L-E-N.

18 THE JUDGE: All right. What would you
19 like me to know?

20 MEL THELEN: Yeah, I think we should
21 keep this program -- make sure it's accessible for people
22 to get to and that. Because me and my wife ride the bike
23 all year round and that. And during -- and a lot of times
24 we have to -- sometimes we slip, almost, a few times
25 riding the bike. But, you know, we get around and that.

1 And I think they should keep the program to help the poor
2 and that, because a lot of people are, you know, going
3 through a hard time and that. A lot of people are poor,
4 you know, and need the more help and that. They should
5 keep the program. They should expand it, and make sure
6 people can get to it, and should help the social workers
7 so they can help get people rides more and that. Because
8 the social workers are working overtime from, you know --
9 like our social worker only spends a couple hours with us
10 and that, and I can barely get everything I need to get
11 done done, you know. So they should expand things more.

12 And they should have a place for people to go
13 out -- like when you go out to places that sometimes they
14 smoke by doors, you know, so people won't get sick from
15 secondhand smoke and that. That would be a good idea.

16 SHARON THELEN: We think they should
17 shut down the tobacco, liquor, and beer factories and open
18 up Payless ShoeSources and have boots for people to wear
19 on their feet, because a lot of people don't have warm
20 enough boots and clothes for the winter. We think they
21 should --

22 MEL THELEN: They should have like a --
23 turn a lot of these tobacco places into bicycle --

24 SHARON THELEN: Payless ShoeSources.

25 THE JUDGE: Wait a sec, guys. We need

1 you to talk one at a time.

2 MEL THELEN: All these tobacco places,
3 they can turn into places and that to help the poor, and
4 bicycle places. Because a lot of people ride bikes and
5 that and don't -- you know, there is a not enough bicycle
6 shops in North Minneapolis and that. It would be a good
7 idea. And they should have -- they should -- programs
8 helped us a lot, too, with food stamps and with energy
9 assistance. And they should expand it more and have the
10 workers -- help the workers so they can -- the social
11 workers have more time to spend with the clients and that,
12 because the social workers don't have enough time to spend
13 with the clients and that.

14 THE JUDGE: Okay. Is there anything
15 else?

16 MEL THELEN: I think that's it. And
17 thank you.

18 THE JUDGE: Thanks for being here.

19 SHARON THELEN: I think they should shut
20 down the bad ingredient factories. A lot of people are
21 going to hurt their insides real bad with liquor, beer,
22 and cigarettes, and bad ingredients. And we're going to
23 hurt our insides real bad. My dad hurt his insides real
24 bad for three months, and he died. And that hurts real
25 bad. And people won't want to feel that, so --

1 THE JUDGE: Thank you. Next we have a
2 number eight, Antonio Smith.

3 ANTONIO SMITH: Good evening, Your
4 Honor. My name is Antonio Smith, S-M-I-T-H.

5 THE JUDGE: Thank you. Go ahead.

6 ANTONIO SMITH: I am the community
7 liaison at the City of Brooklyn Park, and I rise in
8 support of Suburban Hennepin. My job is to ensure that
9 Brooklyn Park is a thriving community, inspires pride,
10 where communities exist for all. And as a part of that,
11 the residents of our community and community organizations
12 asked me last year to help them find some training with
13 regards to how to start a nonprofit organization. I came
14 across this organization, Suburban Hennepin, and they
15 provided a nonprofit workshop series for six weeks to help
16 community organizations and residents starting to file for
17 nonprofits status and also move on to the next step, which
18 is 501(c)(3). This is work that was done last year.

19 Also, in Brooklyn Park, the residents, like some
20 of the stories that we've heard tonight, are homeless.
21 And as a part of the My Brother's Keeper Community
22 Challenge, we have identified homelessness, and we're
23 working to fight that and to end homelessness in Brooklyn
24 Park, and Suburban Hennepin is an organization within our
25 cohort to help us do that.

1 That's a pretty broad and plain story, until you
2 start to move into some of the details of which some of
3 the organizations who benefited and who are now becoming
4 nonprofit organizations include Beyond the Yellow Ribbon,
5 which is -- it helps veterans. Another is Quincy's Fresh
6 Beat Playhouse, which works -- it's for out-of-school time
7 programming for youth, disabled youth. And Kappa Alpha
8 Psi fraternity, which works in their Kappa League program
9 and helps young people.

10 So the story that I'm telling is a little bit
11 different in that Suburban Hennepin has helped the City of
12 Brooklyn Park help its residents and community
13 organizations to form organizations to then help other
14 residents. So thank you for your time.

15 THE JUDGE: Thank you very much.

16 All right. We are now to number nine,
17 which is Patrick Vaughn.

18 THE JUDGE: Good evening.

19 PATRICK VAUGHN: Good evening, Your
20 Honor. Thank you very much.

21 THE JUDGE: How do I spell your last
22 name?

23 PATRICK VAUGHN: My last name is Vaughn,
24 V-A-U-G-H-N.

25 THE JUDGE: Thank you.

1 PATRICK VAUGHN: Thank you very much.
2 CAPSH, Community Action Partnership of Hennepin County,
3 helps me out really well. They provide part of my
4 electric bill. However, I am more or less interested in
5 possibly making working with them because I am working
6 towards self-sufficiency. I am involved with an
7 organization, a nonprofit organization, which is called
8 Sons. We hold a meeting right here in this very location,
9 in the Central Library, once a month, every first Saturday
10 of the month.

11 THE JUDGE: I'm sorry. I missed the
12 name of the organization.

13 PATRICK VAUGHN: It's called Sons of God
14 Ministry.

15 THE JUDGE: Thank you.

16 PATRICK VAUGHN: And what it does is it
17 helps provide discounted, low-rate auto service. And this
18 is the main revenue that generates the money for the
19 ministry. And it's growing. It's very small. And I
20 happen to be one of the only persons that's taking care of
21 it. This is like my uniform here I have on now. But it's
22 working really well. And I am very thankful that CAPSH is
23 not an organization that works towards competing. The
24 good deed that they do needs to expand and needs to spread
25 out amongst a smaller nonprofit organization, such as

1 myself, to help people become very self-sufficient and to
2 kind of generate a little revenue on their own. And
3 everybody feels happy when they are generated revenue on
4 their own and becoming self-sufficient.

5 Some of the needs of the community that I notice
6 was when the wrongdoing allegedly took place, back
7 possibly about a year and a half ago, and people had to go
8 way out to St. Louis Park, it kind of inconvenienced
9 people a little bit. And so we want to try to help to
10 make that a little bit more convenient for them so that
11 they won't have to necessarily travel so far. So the
12 decisions that's coming in on their future, to where it's
13 to be located, I wanted to contribute to that also.

14 But that's about all I want to say. I don't want
15 to take up too much time. More or less, I am working
16 towards helping become self-sufficient. Thank you very
17 much, Your Honor.

18 THE JUDGE: Thank you. All right.
19 Number ten is, I believe, Dennis English.

20 DENNIS ENGLISH: Hello. My name is
21 Dennis English.

22 THE JUDGE: Spell your last name.

23 DENNIS ENGLISH: My last name is exactly
24 like the language.

25 THE JUDGE: All right. Go ahead.

1 DENNIS ENGLISH: I am -- I've kind of
2 designated myself as the poster boy for CAPSH. Actually,
3 I was in a situation where I actually didn't want to live
4 anymore. I didn't get up here to actually talk about
5 that, but I'm just going to give you a brief bit of
6 insight into how I came about on meeting CAPSH.

7 I had got into a situation where I didn't really
8 want to live anymore. I actually had really checked out
9 on life. I knew inside that I could do better, I just
10 didn't know how to do it. I was homeless. I didn't
11 really care what happened to me. I actually had strong
12 thoughts of suicide. Strong -- I guess I just didn't have
13 enough guts to go ahead and carry that out.

14 Anyway, fast forward. I met a young lady named
15 Pat Long, who was really, really one of the most
16 compassionate people that I've ever met. I mean, she
17 didn't even look at me as just a person. She looked at me
18 as someone who needed help. She looked at me as someone
19 who she felt like, in her capacity, could help. And I
20 didn't know she was connected to such a great
21 organization.

22 So what I'm trying to do here in even speaking is
23 that -- bring down to not just the big organization, but
24 down as an experience. I'm someone who they took from the
25 gutter, gave me a reason to really live, and have

1 hand-held me along the way. I've actually been to D.C. to
2 speak for Community Action. I actually ended up
3 graduating from school. I'm a currently a sous chef at
4 the Breaking Bread Cafe over in north Minneapolis. I not
5 only want to live, I want to be able to use my life and
6 testimony to help other people live. And I do that
7 through CAPSH. I was a client there. Now I am on the
8 board of directors, helping to guide this ship.

9 Let me tell you, City of Minneapolis, you could
10 not have made a better designee. Let me give you a couple
11 reasons why. One, I understand that when the situation
12 with Minneapolis or whatever happened -- I'm not trying to
13 even go on that -- CAPSH of Suburban Hennepin, they
14 mobilized within less than three days and started taking
15 care of the people that they needed to take care of as far
16 as where Minneapolis was concerned.

17 Now, I know for a fact, experience is one of the
18 strongest -- one of the strongest things that goes to
19 shape someone's belief system. So I can say that I've
20 experienced them from being a client, now as one of the
21 drivers of this great machine, that's not only just
22 helping lives, not looking at them as numbers.

23 Scott Zemke, when he got up there, he really meant
24 that he will hand-hold people. He's the executive
25 director. So these people have come together; they've

1 united. I actually was glad to see J.D. Haas. He's one
2 of the people that helped me as far as the legal
3 situations where -- and guided me to what I needed to do.
4 Because, like I said, these people, they take time out of
5 their day. They take time to make sure that people not
6 only are looked at as a number, they make sure that they
7 not only just get them to where they need to be, they
8 hand-hold them. And if they can't do what needs to be
9 done, they will get them to another organization that will
10 help them get to the place they need to be.

11 So, like I've said, I've designated myself as the
12 poster boy for CAPSH. I will do whatever they need me to
13 do. They asked if I could come and maybe speak. I just
14 got off a 12-hour shift. You guys gotta come by Breaking
15 Bread. I just want to plug that. Because I am one of the
16 cooks over there, and I'm doing real well.

17 But, honestly, the reason that I am here is
18 because I totally believe in this organization. Not from
19 something I heard from somebody, not from somebody who
20 told me something in a book, not from people saying, well,
21 this is a good organization. No, I've experienced them
22 from the bottom. And now I am so glad to be in a position
23 where I can be a part of this machine who's trying to help
24 people give again.

25 So it's not just an organization that is helping

1 people with housing, not just an organization that's
2 helping people with electric bills, not just an
3 organization that's helping people get clothes. They are
4 an organization that help people live again. Thanks.

5 THE JUDGE: All right. Number 11 is
6 Suzanne Pontinen.

7 SUZANNE PONTINEN: Good evening, Your
8 Honor. My name is Suzanne Pontinen. That's
9 P-O-N-T-I-N-E-N.

10 THE JUDGE: Thank you.

11 SUZANNE PONTINEN: I am here tonight in
12 my capacity as executive director of Volunteer Lawyers
13 Network. We're a private, nonprofit that provides free
14 civil legal services to low-income people in our
15 community. We began partnering with CAPSH in 2010. At
16 that time, they helped us to plan which -- a new clinic
17 model which involved delivering legal services in a
18 holistic method. The services were to be delivered at
19 their clinic sites and embedded into their social
20 services. For us at the time, that was really new and
21 innovative programming.

22 Since that time, they've delivered hundreds of
23 services, legal services, on an annual basis to our joint
24 clients, with a special focus on delivering immigration
25 services, focusing on DACA, Deferred Action for Childhood

1 Arrivals, and naturalization services. During these past
2 five-plus years, they've been a reliable, responsible,
3 helpful, collaborative partner with us. We value the
4 partnership greatly, we value the resources that they
5 offer to us, and we support this designation. Thank you.

6 THE JUDGE: Thank you. All right.
7 Number 12 is Jeff Gessell.

8 JEFF GESSELL: Good evening. My name is
9 Jeff Gessell. It's G-E-S-S-E-L-L.

10 THE JUDGE: I apologize.

11 JEFF GESSELL: Hey, that's better than
12 most people do.

13 THE JUDGE: Hey, it's Pust. You can
14 imagine what I get.

15 JEFF GESSELL: I am here in support of
16 Community Action Partnership for Suburban Hennepin County.
17 I've had the occasion of interacting with the staff at
18 CAPSH for over 14 years in different capacities. And in
19 that time, I have found the staff there to be
20 compassionate, professional, and dedicated. And I would
21 not hesitate to recommend anyone in my family calling on
22 them if they were needing the services of Community
23 Action.

24 I would like to thank them publicly for all things
25 that they've done to promote our community over the last

1 14 years that I've been with them, and before, that I've
2 worked with them on and off. And I guess I would just say
3 I think that they would make a great partner with the City
4 of Minneapolis, like they have exhibited they can be with
5 the rest of Hennepin County. And that's it.

6 THE JUDGE: Thank you. Okay. Number 13
7 is Gary Holcomb.

8 GARY HOLCOMB: Hello, Your Honor.

9 THE JUDGE: Hello.

10 GARY HOLCOMB: My name is Gary Holcomb.
11 G-A-R-Y. Holcomb, H-O-L-C-O-M-B, like in boy. The last
12 thing I did before I retired was to go to the MCTC. And I
13 wanted to take some classes in the Internet or to find out
14 about it, so I took web design, in the process of which I
15 attained a \$20,000 guaranteed student loan, which was
16 really difficult to pay back since I wasn't working
17 afterwards.

18 I retired, and so I'm now living on below-poverty
19 Social Security. And in the years that I've -- since I've
20 retired, I have paid back that \$20,000 with a great deal
21 of difficulty. I became involved with the action agency
22 somewhere in the interim, and they have been paying my
23 energy bills ever since, and that has been a great help.

24 My second time -- my first time going out to
25 St. Louis Park, to their headquarters, whatever you want

1 to call it, was really difficult. The signage is
2 terrible. I had to walk around the building and guess
3 where it might be. And I finally found it. So that's
4 mainly the comment that I wanted to make. By the way, my
5 age is 73 years old. So I'm doing fairly well.

6 THE JUDGE: I think we're going to say
7 73 years young.

8 GARY HOLCOMB: Thank you.

9 THE JUDGE: Can somebody work on that
10 signage issue?

11 GARY HOLCOMB: So thank you very much
12 action agency and Your Honor, and I hope all goes well.

13 THE JUDGE: Thank you.

14 GARY HOLCOMB: Thank you.

15 THE JUDGE: All right. We next have
16 number 14, Vic Rosenthal.

17 VIC ROSENTHAL: Good evening. My name
18 is Vic Rosenthal. I'm the executive director of Jewish
19 Community Action. It's V-I-C and then R-O-S-E-N-T-H-A-L.

20 THE JUDGE: Thank you. Go ahead.

21 VIC ROSENTHAL: Jewish Community Action
22 is a 20-year-old organization that does -- organizes the
23 Jewish community in alliance with other groups around
24 social, economic, and racial justice issues. I'm here to
25 speak in favor of Community Action Partnership of Suburban

1 Hennepin being designated for the City of Minneapolis.

2 We've worked with Community Action Partnership for
3 several years. Several years ago, during the -- or even
4 maybe four years ago, during the height of the foreclosure
5 crisis, we worked with Community Action Partnership to
6 educate and involve people in the community and provide
7 services to people who were facing foreclosure in Brooklyn
8 Park and in a couple of other communities, specifically to
9 help people who were trying to preserve their home. And
10 they were very, very helpful in that effort, and were a
11 great partner to do that work.

12 This past year, we worked with Community Action
13 Partnership around issues of growing poverty in suburban
14 communities, specifically working with a network of human
15 service organizations to try to identify issues that cause
16 people to remain in poverty, and then to work with them to
17 seek ways for people to find affordable housing. This
18 network has now come together. It includes upwards of 20
19 human service organizations that are working with
20 landlords, elected officials, and others to look at ways
21 of trying to sustain and increase the supply of affordable
22 housing in the western suburban communities.

23 And, again, the staff of the organization have
24 been extremely helpful and very collaborative in pulling
25 various people together from these different groups. And

1 then more recently, we worked to provide training for over
2 50 staff at CAPSH around issues of race and diversity, and
3 found their staff to be incredibly interested in figuring
4 out how to be better at doing the kind of outreach that
5 not only is helpful in suburban communities, where the
6 community is changing, but will be extremely helpful in
7 Minneapolis to the diverse communities that are living in
8 Minneapolis.

9 As an organization that's done a lot of work both
10 in the suburbs and in Minneapolis with people of color and
11 with people dealing with poverty and various issues, I
12 think the Community Action Partnership is ideal for this
13 work. Thank you.

14 THE JUDGE: All right. And we're now to
15 number 15, Maria Olivarez.

16 (The following comments by Maria
17 Olivarez were given through an interpreter.)

18 MARIA OLIVAREZ: My name is Maria
19 Olivarez, O-L-I-V-A-R-E-Z. I am here representing my
20 kids. I am a single mother of three. I am here fighting
21 for many things for them. I have had a lot of training.
22 I've seen a volunteer at churches and schools. What I'm
23 really worried about right now is that a lot of Hispanics,
24 we do not have the medical assistance we need. I have
25 been sick for the past three months. And due to that, not

1 having the MA, I have not been able to go to the doctors.
2 I would like to come here to try to find a solution for
3 that so we can get some assistance at the medical clinics.
4 That's it for now. Thank you.

5 THE JUDGE: Thank you. And I'm going to
6 pause here. And, actually, could you translate this for
7 me?

8 THE INTERPRETER: Yeah. Sure.

9 THE JUDGE: It's my understanding that
10 Suburban Hennepin has some case workers available that
11 will be in the room next door, either now or after this
12 meeting. Somebody tell me, is it now or after this
13 meeting?

14 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: It's now.

15 THE JUDGE: Now? There are case workers
16 next door from Suburban Hennepin, and I recommend that if
17 you'd like, you could go talk to them. And they are here
18 specifically for the purpose of dealing with people's
19 needs one, by one, by one.

20 MARIA OLIVAREZ: Thank you very much.

21 THE JUDGE: Thank you. All right.
22 Number 16 is Abdullahi Sheikh. Somebody tell me how well
23 I did with that.

24 ABDULLAHI SHEIKH: My name is Abdullahi
25 Sheikh.

1 THE JUDGE: Oh, I did pretty well.

2 ABDULLAHI SHEIKH: Yes, you tried.

3 I am here to support Community Action,
4 reflecting on two aspects. One is, many years ago, when I
5 was new to the country, spoke very little English, was not
6 able to navigate through the systems, they were able to
7 support me and give me energy assistance. And today, I
8 deal with many clients as an advocate, a community
9 organizer, in one of the areas that is densely populated,
10 called Cedar Riverside. I am a community organizer, and I
11 deal with clients who have been here many years, who are
12 new to this country every day, looking for housing,
13 looking for legal aid, energy assistance.

14 As early as Monday, I had a couple who are getting
15 SSI, which is not so much, \$700, \$700, \$1,400, paying \$900
16 something for rent, who are not able to get their bills
17 through with energy assistance.

18 And many years ago, I'm not too sure what
19 happened, but in Park Avenue and across to Franklin, they
20 used to have an office where we could easily refer clients
21 to. But I don't know what happened now. What I'm saying
22 is many of the clients I deal with are people who do not
23 speak English at all. Very new. Sometimes one of the
24 clients I was speaking to was telling me that it's like,
25 you know, you are thrown -- you are thrown -- when we came

1 here, it's like you are thrown in the bush and
2 blindfolded, and you don't know where to go. Basically,
3 that's what it is when it comes to new immigrants. You
4 have either to be one of them or work with them to be able
5 to understand and (inaudible) their feelings and really
6 the need they are in.

7 I will say any access of services, this bounty of
8 services that is given by Community Action to the people
9 of Hennepin, wherever they are, and close to where I work,
10 will be a great advantage to the entire community and for
11 Minneapolis and Minnesota. And that will be able to help
12 many people. You know, get them off from the poverty.
13 Many of the clients I'm dealing with are people who are
14 getting less than \$13,000. Sometimes I deal with single
15 mothers. I want to pay from -- pay them from my pocket,
16 but I can't because of ethical reasons. So I deal with a
17 lot of single mothers. I deal with couples who are
18 seniors. And I am really tongue-tied and really stranded.

19 I would think if these services can be extended to
20 be people of Minneapolis, to all areas, including the area
21 I work, it will really uplift a great burden, not only the
22 work I do, but many like me, who are within the community.
23 Thank you so much.

24 THE JUDGE: Thank you so much. All
25 right. And number 17 is --

1 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Pass.

2 THE JUDGE: Pass? Okay. Thank you.
3 And number 18, Marcallina James.

4 MARCALLINA JAMES: Good evening, Your
5 Honor.

6 THE JUDGE: Good evening.

7 MARCALLINA JAMES: My name is Marcallina
8 James. That's spelled M-A-R-C-A-L-L-I-N-A. James,
9 J-A-M-E-S. I am here in support of the proposed
10 designation for CAPSH to be in Minneapolis. I am a U.S.
11 Navy Desert Storm war veteran.

12 THE JUDGE: Okay. We're going to stop
13 now. Thank you for your service.

14 MARCALLINA JAMES: I've had the very
15 good fortune of being familiar with the services of CAPSH,
16 both personally and professionally. Right now, I work at
17 Minneapolis Community and Technical College as an advisor
18 for the Veterans Upward Bound program, and I have CAPSH to
19 thank for this. I was very fortunate to be referred to
20 Tommy Johnson.

21 In order to be able to get that job, which I
22 dreamed about for many years, I had to supply proof of my
23 bachelor degree. Just prior to meeting Tommy, I had
24 gotten my bachelor degree. But the college would not
25 release my transcript because I owed them some money in

1 tuition. As well, prior to that, I -- it took me 25 years
2 after serving in the military to get my bachelor degree.
3 So I made a decision to leave my full-time employment and
4 finish up the last four credits of college, which I had
5 put off for 12 years prior. With that, however, with
6 unemployment, I was at risk of losing my home. I pretty
7 much went for broke and said, I'm going to pay for
8 college. I am going to get it done.

9 So when I had the opportunity to come into contact
10 with Mr. Johnson, at CAPSH, he assisted me in getting the
11 renter's assistance I needed so -- because I paid
12 everything for tuition. So I was able to keep my home.
13 I'm also the mother of five children, adult children. So
14 I was able to stay in my home, I was able to go to the job
15 interview, I was able to supply the documentation that I
16 needed. Because from what the college said, I pretty much
17 had the job. But the only thing pending was that piece of
18 paper, that bachelor degree.

19 So getting the assistance from CAPSH to, you know,
20 pay my rent and be able to designate other funding
21 elsewhere to get that degree, to get the job, to now serve
22 veterans, which is my passion, I have them to thank for
23 that.

24 Lastly, as a result of my being an advisor for
25 veterans at the college, I have an opportunity to work

1 with many homeless veterans, and here in Minneapolis. So,
2 you know, if I didn't say so before, I am very much in
3 support of CAPSH being able to serve Minneapolis
4 residents. Because many of the veterans that I work with
5 reside in Minneapolis, and they are in dire need of the
6 services that Community Action provides. So thank you.

7 THE JUDGE: Thank you. Okay. We now
8 have a one more, I believe, number 19, Carmen Ford.

9 CARMEN FORD: Good evening, Your Honor.

10 Good evening, everyone. My name is Carmen Ford.

11 C-A-R-M-E-N; last name Ford, F-O-R-D -- and I work for the
12 Hennepin County Sheriff's Office. I work with the Latino
13 and American Indian communities, and I am part of the
14 Community Engagement Team. And we serve -- we work with
15 the African American, Asian, and Somali community.

16 We do outreach every day. And I support Community
17 Action because I heard amazing stories. But what I knew
18 -- now out there I hear the stories -- is that I thought
19 -- I didn't know a lot about Community Action. And I
20 thought that they only helped pay the electric bills. But
21 -- I'm sorry. But now I know that a lot of -- they help a
22 lot of Latinos, and I know that a lot of my Latino
23 community, they are -- well, their immigration status is
24 not very good. But they still help them, I know.

25 And I been working in Richfield a lot. I work in

1 the 45 cities that are part of Hennepin County. And I go
2 a lot to this organization in Richfield that is called
3 Mira, M-I-R-A. And that -- Maribel Escobar (phonetic),
4 she is the one that -- she invited me to be here in this
5 hearing. And also I know Maria Sanchez. She works for
6 Community Action. And knowing those people is that I've
7 been learning a lot. And being in the community, in those
8 two communities, I know what they need. And now I can
9 just say, you know what, you need a lawyer? You can go to
10 Community Action. With the American Indian, you are
11 homeless? You can go to Community Action. I work a lot
12 at Little Earth. I go there not every day, but once a
13 week. So I support Community Action.

14 And thank you. Thank you so much for being
15 multicultural, because I like that. And I know that the
16 Latinos and the American Indian, all the communities, all
17 the minorities, we can do a big difference here. So thank
18 you. Thank you Community -- thank you to all the staff.
19 Thank you to the director. And like I said, I support
20 Community Action with all my heart. And thank you. Thank
21 you, Your Honor.

22 THE JUDGE: Thank you. Is there anyone
23 else in the audience who would like to speak? I see one
24 person. And you can certainly do that. Gene, do you want
25 to come and get this from me?

1 SILVIA GARCIA: Good evening, Your
2 Honor. My name is Silvia Garcia. First name is
3 S-I-L-V-I-A; last name is Garcia, G-A-R-C-I-A. I wasn't
4 planning on speaking today, but after hearing all the
5 stories, I volunteered. I was one of the first volunteers
6 for CAPSH, for the legal clinics. I am paralegal, and I
7 am pursuing my bachelor's to go on to law school.

8 And so I wanted to support them fully, because
9 they gave me the platform to help people in the community
10 that don't have the money and the resources to pay for a
11 private attorney. And I think that if they are designated
12 with Minneapolis residents, I think they would -- their
13 services would reach more people, especially having a huge
14 population of minorities in Minneapolis that they could
15 service, especially now, with all that's going on with
16 immigration. I know that that service, the legal clinic,
17 is going to be very helpful. And if it expands, it would
18 give more opportunities for people like me, such as
19 myself, to volunteer the time and help other communities.
20 Thank you.

21 THE JUDGE: Thank you. All right. And
22 we have one more, and it is Said Ahmed. I can't see the
23 last letter. Ahmed? It might be Ahmen.

24 SAID AHMED: My name is Said Ahmed.
25 S-A-I-D, last name A-H-M-E-D.

1 THE JUDGE: Great. Thank you.

2 SAID AHMED: It's my pleasure to come
3 here for this hearing. I used to be a member of board of
4 Community Action for seven years, and I can't imagine the
5 job that they have done for the poor people. For me, I'm
6 a network engineer. When I came to the United States
7 15 years ago --

8 THE JUDGE: Sir, I'm sorry. Can you
9 push the mic up a little bit more.

10 SAID AHMED: I came 15 years ago, and I
11 go college here. So having four kids, starting for my
12 life. So they help me a lot to buy a house. You know,
13 they have a (inaudible) Community Action which they give
14 training. So I bought a house in Minnetonka. So that
15 seven years, I have seen how they -- their Community
16 Action works. You know, so I get a lot of knowledge.
17 Even now, I do volunteering to help them. So I am
18 supporting them for all my heart. Thank you.

19 THE JUDGE: Thank you. All right. It
20 is 7:34. And here is what we're going to do, unless I get
21 some high signs from somebody, telling me this is not what
22 we're going to do. And generally, I'm the judge; I should
23 get to say.

24 First of all, I want to thank each and every one
25 of you for coming out. I want to thank every one of you

1 who stood up to the microphone and shared with your
2 neighbors throughout this community what it is you think,
3 what it is you experience, and what your opinion is with
4 regard to the City's potential action here. We, as a
5 community, are only as strong as our active engaged
6 citizens make us. And I would put you all in that boat.
7 So democracy is better for the fact that you were all
8 here, and I thank you for that.

9 Now, I am going to end this -- your time here.
10 But the people from Suburban Hennepin are going to stay,
11 and the people from the City of Minneapolis are going to
12 stay. So if you'd like to talk with them, you can do
13 that. We're going to stay until 8:00, in case anybody out
14 in the public decided that they wanted to come late. But
15 you don't need to all stay because you've already given me
16 what your thoughts are.

17 So with that, I am going to excuse you, if you'd
18 like to leave. And I certainly would ask you to speak
19 with any of the people representing the organizations
20 personally, if you'd like to.

21 Again, on behalf of the City of Minneapolis, on
22 behalf of Suburban Hennepin, and on behalf of the State of
23 Minnesota, thank you so much.

24
25 (Proceedings concluded at 7:36 p.m.)

1 COUNTY OF HENNEPIN)
2) SS:
3 STATE OF MINNESOTA)
4

5 COURT REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

6 I, Michelle R. Clifton, do hereby certify that
7 the above and foregoing transcript, consisting of
8 the preceding 61 pages, is a correct transcript of
9 my stenograph notes, and is a full, true, and complete
10 transcript of the proceeding to the best of my
11 ability.
12

13 Dated this 5th day of February, 2016.
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16

17 _____
18 Michelle R. Clifton
19 Court Reporter
20 Kirby Kennedy & Associates
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